

FOR EUROPE & AMERICA
INDIA, AUSTRALIA, &c. and for
PRIVATE RESIDENTS AT THE
OUTPOSTS
A Comprehensive and Complete
Record of the
NEWS OF THE FAR EAST
given in the
**HONGKONG WEEKLY
PRESS,**
with which is incorporated the
CHINA OVERSEAS TRADE REPORT,
Subscription, paid in advance, \$12
per annum. Postage to any part of
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Hongkong Daily Press.

ESTABLISHED 1857

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FOR 1906.
Complete Edition .. \$10.00
Small .. 600
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ALEXANDRA BUILDINGS.
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GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY

PORTLAND CEMENT.
In Casks 375 lbs. net \$4.75 per cask ex Factory.
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Hongkong, 1st October, 1905. (a1213)

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LANDING upon the Property of the
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the undersigned, is PROHIBITED from this
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The Portion of the Western Shore of Junk
Bay covered by this Notice extends for about
two miles from a large marked 500 yards, or
thereabouts, South of the Mill Buildings in a
Northerly direction to the stream near the
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TO BE LET, a Portion of MARINE LOT

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Dining accommodation for 300 Persons

163 Bedrooms

Elegantly Furnished Reception Rooms

Private Bar and Billiard Rooms for Hotel

Residents

Hydraulic Lifts to each Floor

Electric Lighting and Fans

Every Comfort

Ladies' Afternoon Tea Rooms

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Matron in attendance

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A HIGH CLASS PRIVATE HOTEL.

Ladies' Afternoon Tea Rooms.

Private Bar and Billiard Rooms.

Hot and Cold Water throughout.

Electrically Lighted. Electric Fans (if

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Electric Passenger Elevator to each floor.

Table D'Hôte at separate tables.

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HAS been re-opened under European

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as to food, cleanliness, and hygiene of the place.

All comforts of a home.

Comfortable bedrooms, and a most

paying a visit to the historical and picturesque

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Macao is 40 miles south-west of Hongkong.

One steamer (s.s. *Heungghen*), daily to and

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these centres.

An Orchestra plays during Dinner on

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Cable Address—"BOAVISTA."

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Do. (Bombay bottles)	1.50
POTASH, SELTZER & P.P. Soda	1.50
LEMONADE	1.50
TONIC WATER	1.50
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SARSAPARILLA	1.50
LEMON SQUASH	1.50
RASPBERRYADE	1.50
STONE GINGER BEER	1.50

Bottles returned in Good Condition are allowed for at the Rate of \$1.20 per doz.

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SODA WATER	\$19.00
POTASH SELTZER & P.P. Soda	19.50
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Eighteen Dollars per dozen is allowed on SYPHONS returned in Good Condition.

We specially recommend our STONE GINGER BEER, which is brewed from finest Jamaica Root by our own special process.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

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On June 10th, at Shanghai, the wife of T. E. HESS, Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., Ltd., of a daughter.

On June 11th, at Shanghai, the wife of J. G. CHANGLING, of a daughter.

On June 11th, at Shanghai, HENRY W. CHANGLING, to ELIZA MARGARET ATKIN, of Singapore.

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respect to that advantage itself he quotes with approval a passage from "Reshaping of the Far East", in which the position that is adopted is sound and well considered, avoiding as it does the common exaggeration that a knowledge of the Chinese language will be sufficient to make Europeans independent of the assistance of compradores or other go-betweens; a point which has been often urged by writers who were of considerable general authority, but who lacked practical acquaintance with the business relations which exist in China. This overstatement has done much to engender a dislike for the study of Chinese among commercial men, who are well aware, from their own experience, that the view is a fallacious one. It is, however, pointed out that it is essential that Europeans should very soon be able to deal direct with Chinese in many matters; and this opinion when endorsed by Mr. GOSWAMY, the President of the Association, at the annual dinner was received with marked approval—a circumstance of significance, seeing the number of important representatives of the China trade then present. "Whatever else may be in doubt," Mr. GOSWAMY said, "it will be urgently and increasingly necessary to enable us to hold our own—that men of the rising generation who look forward to a career in China should acquire a working knowledge of Chinese." One great difficulty, however, which has stood in the way of any general study of the Chinese language by those engaged in mercantile occupations has been the doubt whether they may after all be able to turn their knowledge to any practical account. If a man who intends to make a career in China goes through a course of study as a tea taster or silk inspector, he knows that he is not wasting either his time or his money in so doing. He has not long to wait before he obtains a good opening and, if he is a competent man, he may have every chance of making use of his attainments as long as it suits him in China, and, as has often happened, of pushing a valuable business either as broker or attached to some large establishment on his return home. But if a man has by dint of three or four years' hard study made himself fairly acquainted with Chinese, it is quite an even chance whether in reality he will be able to make a career of it. It will be no practical advantage to him on his return. The matter stands upon a totally different footing in regard to appointments in the Consular Service or in the Imperial Chinese Customs. In either of these services there is no doubt of the student obtaining ample return in the way of promotion for his trouble in mastering the language; but in a mercantile career, it is by no means certain that any material advantage will be obtained; though of course the probabilities lie in that direction, especially in the present day, when the larger mercantile houses and banks often undertake very important matters in which Chinese who speak no English are largely concerned.

The time may, however, come when it may be worth the while of some of the banks and also of some of the large houses to make use of the services of European interpreters very much in the same way as is done in the Government service; and if so it will be of very great advantage that there should be such facilities for learning something of the language as a preparation for coming to China as are afforded by the School for Chinese in London. The Chinese Association will do good service in continuing its support to it, and may possibly find means of encouraging the study by making certain appointments dependent upon a knowledge of Chinese or even in time arranging for the employment of special European interpreters in some houses.

The great point is that the teaching which is given should be suited to the purpose for which it is designed. It is apt to be overlooked that there are two very different ways in which the Chinese like any other language, may be studied. It may be learnt merely for colloquial and general purposes or may be thoroughly mastered with an idea of gaining an acquaintance with Chinese literature, and so obtaining a knowledge of the views and feelings of the people. The latter is of course of very great value to persons in official positions, but it involves far too extensive a study to be undertaken by ordinary people. On the other hand it is not enough, even for merely practical purposes, to have a bare acquaintance with some dialect of the spoken language. This should not doubt form the main object of the mercantile student, but it must also be accompanied by a fair knowledge of the

written character. This latter can only be approached as a serious study. To a great extent it is a matter of perseverance, and sheer plodding; but the study may be greatly facilitated by European professors who know how best to present it to the European mind, who have experience in teaching and who are acquainted with those arts by which the attention of pupils is fastened upon details unattractive in themselves, but which can be made interesting by skilled and tactful teachers. There is no reason why English youth should not be able to master so much of the Chinese written character with three or four years' study at home, as with a little perseverance after they arrive in China will give them a sufficient knowledge of it for any business purposes for which it may be required. A hint, and it must frankly be acknowledged, a somewhat grudging study of this kind, can be much better undertaken in a bracing healthy climate than in one which taxes the nerves and energies, as is the case in most places in China. In order, however, to induce young men to go through such a course, there must be some definite advantage held out to them, and it will be well for those largely interested in trade with China to consider whether some arrangements can be made by which suitable men would secure appointments in banks or large mercantile establishments as interpreters, in some what the same way as they are engaged in the like capacity for the Government services.

The Criminal Sessions open to-day. Six plague cases were recorded on Saturday, all fatal. The romance of Peking is rapidly fading. We hear they are getting a steam roller.

Chinese in Korea have appealed to the Japanese to protect them from riotous Koreans. The second gunboat for the Chinese Government was launched at Kobe on June 12th. It was named the *Chu-lung*.

The trial trip of the *ss. Lungyoo*, recently launched by the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, takes place to-day.

Japanese papers are beginning to have their own "yellow peril." They are dwelling on the significance of Chinese attacks on Japanese settlers.

H. E. the Governor has appointed Mr. F. Southey to be Chief Draftsman on the staff. Mr. R. S. von Darvasto has been recognised as 1. and E. Consul for Austria-Hungary at Hongkong in succession to Mr. N. Post.

The *Nanfeng* has a story that the Chinese Government threatens to confiscate the Kiang-pai concession if work is not commenced within six months. The Italian cruiser *Calabria* with Prince Ferdinand of Seroy-Uine on board, is at present at Shanghai. His Royal Highness is a sub-lieutenant.

A garrison correspondent informs us that there was a fire in the Military Bakery in Fletcher Street on Friday night, which threatened to destroy Headquarters. "Unfortunately," he adds, "it was extinguished."

A water-polo match, the first of the season was played on Saturday 10th at Stoncutter's Island, between teams representing the Royal Garrison Artillery and "Lusitania", which resulted in a victory to the latter by eight goals to one.

We have received the report for 1905 of the Tungking Medical Missionary Hospital, connected with the Rhenish Missionary Society. There were 711 inpatients, 19,232 visitors, and 1,443 operations. Many of the operations and cures were of a most interesting character.

On a picture postcard sent from Harbin, Manchuria, an English journalist always pro-Japanese, who is en route to St. Petersburg, writes: "The Russians are the most malignant people on earth. Nothing but kindness and good humour; no signs of tyranny. Shewa passport only once, on arrival."

The Russian diplomats at Peking are still insisting on railway and mining rights in Kirin and Heilungkiang. A Tientsin report states that the Russians have been lauding railway materials at Kirin and Heilungkiang, and are engaging Chinese labourers to build a line parallel to the Eastern Chinese railway.

The programme of music to be performed by the Band of the 119th Infantry on the New Parade Ground to-day (Monday) from 5 to 6.30 p.m., is as follows:—March, "Thy Voice is Near," Bennett; Intermezzo, "Love in Idleness," Macbeth; Waltz, "Mia Cara," Buecelossi; Selection, "The First of June," Sullivan; Song, "I'll Sing These Songs of Araby," Clay; Patrol, "The Egyptian Patrol," Lane.

It is stated in Chinese official circles that their Majesties have approved of H.E. Viceroy Chou Fu's recommendation to abolish the sale or purchase of old and young females throughout the Empire. This law applies to official as well as the common people and instructions are being issued to all Viceroys and Governors of provinces to enforce the law under all and every circumstance upon receipt of an Imperial Rescript inaugurating the law.

The vote of \$703 allowed for the formation of the Peak Garden was expended during the year, but the ground has not been turfed yet, as the work was not sufficiently advanced at the end of the rainy season to permit of this being done. A pump has been fixed to the well in the garden by the P.W.D. This will permit of the well being covered over so that there will be no danger of children falling in, and at the same time the water will be available for the garden.

Bit by bit the story of San Francisco continues to be modified. A firm there writes to its agents in Japan:—"We have no doubt you have read the exaggerated reports that have gone out that San Francisco has been entirely wiped out. We wish to correct this error, however, and advise you that not only has the largest portion of the residence section been saved, but also the entire water front with its docks, and

THE THIRD GYMKHANA.

Patrons: His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G.; His Excellency Vice-Admiral Sir Arthur W. Moore, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., C.M.G.; His Excellency Maj.-Genl. Williams Hutton, C.B., Commodore H. Pigot Williams, R.N.

Committee: The Stewards of the Hongkong Jockey Club (ex-officio), Lieut.-Col. Atken, Major Parker, Messrs. G. K. Hall, Branton, C. H. Ross, J. A. Jupp, and H. P. White, Mr. C. H. Ross—Judge; Mr. H. P. White, and Major Parker—Handicappers; Mr. H. P. White—Clerk of the Scales; Major Parker—Starter; Mr. W. W. G. Ross—2nd Starter; Mr. T. S. Forrest—Time Keeper; Mr. C. G. Mackie—Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

The third meeting of the Gymkhana Club was held at Happy Valley on Saturday in beautiful weather. The attendance was large, the turf in good condition, and an excellent programme of music was provided during the afternoon by the West Kent Band under the baton of Bandmaster McKelvie. Some good races were put up, but the dividends paid by the Pari Mutuel were smaller than usual, the highest for the day being \$21.10, the amount Preston paid in the hurdle race. H. E. the Governor arrived at his stand. Results were as under:

ONE MILE AND A QUARTER FLAT RACE. Handicap. For all China Ponies. Non-winning Jockeys allowed 5lb. Entrance fee \$5. 1st Prize: A Cup presented: 2nd Prize: \$25. (Entrance fees to go to winner).

Mr. G. K. Hall Branton's Preston, 1st 11lb (Mr. Master) 1
Mr. C. G. Mackie's The Quail, 1st 9lb (Mr. Mackie) 2
Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson's Lorie, 1st 8lb (Mr. Gresson) 3
Mr. D. Macdonald's Highland Giltie, 1st 11lb (Mr. Giltie) 4
Mr. O'Flynn's Red Herring, 1st 8lb (Mr. O'Flynn) 5

The field got a good start, and as they passed the post for the first time Highland Giltie and Red Herring came almost neck and neck in the lead. The pace from the start was fast, and opposite the football stand the rider of Red Herring endeavored to increase it with the aid of the whip. For a time the pony responded, but as the rock was reached the rest of the field had drawn up to the leader who fell to the rear and retained last place until the finish. Preston and the Quail were almost level as they entered the straight and a good race home was witnessed. Preston winning by about a neck. Time: 2 min. 42 sec. The Pari Mutuel paid \$21.10 on the winner.

LEMON CUTTING. Gallop past two posts (passing post on your right hand) on each of which a lemon (or potato) will be hanging. At first post "Cut No. 1 on the right" (i.e. forward out level with shoulder); at 2nd post "Cut No. 2 on the right" (i.e. back out level with shoulder). Points: 3 for a cut lemon; 1 for a potato; 1 for style. First Prize presented: 2nd Prize: \$25. Entrance fee \$5.

Mr. Devereux 1
Mr. Dapree 2
Mr. Lagan 3
Most of the competitors in this event proved themselves fairly expert sportsmen, and all managed to cut a slice off a lemon. There was a great laugh, however, when one of the entrants, with his charger at the gallop, dealt a "Black Knight" blow at a lemon and knocked down the post from which it was suspended.

GYMKHANA CLUB CHALLENGE CUP.—Distance: One Mile.—Value to be declared when Cup is purchased. For all China Ponies. Catch Weights at 10st. 3lb. Winners of an open event to be allowed 5lb. Non-winning 7lb. Entrances allowed 5lb. Non-winning Jockeys allowed 5lb. To be won by the pony scoring most marks in the races for the Cup, counting 1 point for a first; 2 for a second; and 3 for a third. The benefit of marks already scored to pass with the pony on a sale. Any winner of the race to carry 5lb. extra for each win in subsequent events for the Cup, but in the event of a pony carrying the penalty not winning, 2lb. to be deducted next time he starts. Penalties accumulate up to 15lb. Entrance fee of \$5 to go in the purchase of a moment to the winner of each race, and \$25 to second prize out of the Club funds. At the conclusion of the Season a Cup, value \$100, will be presented to the Owner of the pony obtaining the second highest number of marks.

Mr. G. K. Hall Branton's Preston, 1st 11lb (Mr. Master) 1
Mr. W. G. Clarke's Lashmore, 1st 11lb (Mr. Clarke) 2
Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson's Lorie, 1st 8lb (Mr. Gresson) 3
Father O'Flynn's The Jockey, 1st 11lb (Mr. O'Flynn) 4
Mr. D. Macdonald's Highland Giltie, 1st 11lb (Mr. Giltie) 5

After four false starts the field got away. Lorie was on the rails with Highland Giltie alongside, but they were displaced by Pathan and Kingston, which ponies drew ahead of the field leaving the others three deep behind. Racing neck and neck the leaders were far ahead of the field opposite the football stand, and as they topped the incline it seemed impossible that any of the others should get near them again. Passing the village however, Mr. Gresson gave Lorie his head and the pony proved that it was a good and a stayer, for he overhauled the leaders about half way up the straight and the final run was a willing one. Kingston passed the post a neck ahead of Lorie and Pathan, who ran a dead heat for second place. Time: 2 min. 8 1/2 sec. Dividend on the winner, \$7.1.

LADIES' NOMINATION.—Each Lady will be provided with 3 polo balls. Ladies to stand on the mud course, gentlemen (the mounted) on the grass course. Poles may be thrown into the mud course, and as soon as a competitor has secured three, he can mount and ride to a point indicated and deposit polo balls in a basket. First past the post with three balls in basket to win. Polo balls must be carried in the hands—pockets, &c., may not be used. First and Second Prizes presented by the Club. Entrance fee \$5.

Mr. Dapree, nominated by Miss Branton 1
Captain Smith, nominated by Mrs. Wise 2
The ladies appeared to find their task in this event much easier than where lifetime figures were concerned, and were so accurate in throwing the polo balls that not one accident has to be recorded.

THREE QUARTERS OF A MILE FLAT RACE. For Hongkong and China Subscription Grifflins of any season. Weight for incline as per scale. Previous winners at this season's Gymkhana barred. Winners of an official race to carry 7lb. extra; of two or more races 10lb. extra. "Off-day" winners at Hongkong or Shanghai to carry 3lb. extra. Unplaced ponies in an official race allowed 5lb. Non-winning Jockeys allowed 5lb. Entrance fee \$5. 1st Prize: A Cup presented: 2nd Prize: \$25. Entrance fees to go to winner.

Mr. W. G. Clarke's Lashmore, 1st 11lb (Mr. Clarke) 1
Mr. O'Flynn's Red Herring, 1st 11lb (Mr. O'Flynn) 2
Mr. Henchman's Dimble, 1st 10lb (Mr. Gresson) 3
Mr. Hickell's Rosebush, 1st 10lb (Mr. Hickman) 4
Mr. A. C. Hyatt's Ingot, 1st 11lb (Mr. Hyatt) 5

It was surprising to see Diadem, the outsider, making the running in this race. He maintained a lead until the straight was entered, Red Herring, Ingot and Lashmore then being close behind. Lashmore challenged Diadem and passed him in the home run, also Red Herring, who was a long head behind at the post. Time: 2 min. 37 sec. Dividend: \$11.10.

HURDLE RACE.—For China ponies. Distance: 8 1/2 miles. Winner of hurdle race at first and second gymkhana to carry 5lb. extra. Entrance fee \$5. 1st Prize: A Cup presented by G. C. Master, Esq. 2nd Prize: \$25. (Entrance fees to go to winner).

Mr. G. K. Hall Branton's Preston, 1st 11lb (Mr. Master) 1
Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson's Lorie, 1st 8lb (Mr. Gresson) 2
Mr. W. J. Daniel's Baluchi, 1st 5lb (Mr. J. Gresson) 3
Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson's Mamoudan, 1st 8lb (Mr. Gresson) 4
Mr. C. G. Mackie's The Quail, 1st 9lb (Mr. Mackie) 5

Baluchi shot to the front as the flag dropped, but was soon replaced by Lorie, the Quail being second and Preston last. Opposite the Golf Club the Quail fouled a hurdle, throwing his rider, who fortunately escaped without serious injury. Lorie was not far in advance, but going up the incline he was pursued by Preston and Mamoudan, the former pony overtaking him as the straight was entered and beating him in the home run.

The Pari Mutuel paid a dividend of \$21.20.

TREE FELLING.

ADMINISTRATIONS OF A USEFUL DISCUSSION. The following is from the report on the Botanical and Forestry Department published in the Gazette.

It will be remembered that the questions asked by the Hon. Mr. Shaw in Legislative Council on September 14th, 1904, led to a useful discussion (Legislative Council Paper No. 36 of 1905) upon the best method of managing the pine plantations on the Island. Eventually the help of the Indian Forestry Department was sought and the Inspector General of Forests advised that the trees should be allowed to grow for 50 years (or in exceptional cases 35) before being felled. This rotation was adopted by the Government, and it was decided to change that 35 was to be normal, 30 or less the exceptional term. It was further decided not to cut down blocks of trees except in the part of the Island remote from Victoria, viz. the Tylam and Stanley divisions; the "shelterwood strip system" was to be adopted in the Shamkwan, Aberdeen and Pokfulam divisions, while in the two divisions reaching from Pokfulam Bay to the Happy Valley area, His Excellency the Governor has since decided, to be preserved for aesthetic effect only. The principal localities planted with pine during the year were Aberdeen (96,000 trees); this was the block cut down in 1904; Yumau (50,000); Pokfulam (10,000); and Tylamuk (10,000). Very little felling took place during the year in consequence of the uncertainty which existed concerning the best means of conducting it. Unfortunately, however, the number of trees removed was swelled by an unusually large quantity of dead timber. As this department pointed out in 1905, the greater part of the plantations in the Island consist of trees which fall off in growth after 20 years and, no doubt, a considerable percentage die at that age or during the subsequent decade. One of the great advantages of afforestation is the improvement of the soil. Pines will grow on very poor soil, but after one or two generations make the ground rich enough to support more valuable and more beautiful trees. This result will never be realized, however, in Hongkong, nor will the pines themselves flourish until the Chinese have been taught not to scrape up the rich pine needles here and there from the plantations for fuel. In some old plantations the ground is kept bare and sandy as when the trees were planted. In consideration of these facts it is satisfactory that the hands of the forest guards have been greatly strengthened during the year for dealing with this difficulty and a large number of marauders have been arrested and punished. The only serious cases of organized stealing of timber occurred at Aberdeen Brick Works and at Mong Kok. In the former case one man was caught after great difficulty and heavily punished. In the latter case three partners of the Government timber contractor were arrested and convicted, receiving various terms of imprisonment and banishment.

The Chinese—Recessed pine plantations in the New Territory have been regularly visited during the year. No cases of overcutting have been detected. A few homes have been encroached because of the unauthorized cutting of wild trees by their holders. In order to facilitate the re-sowing of felled areas in the Chinese Forest Lots a notice was issued in November reminding license holders of their obligation to re-sow and offering seed from the Government plantations at cost price for the purpose. Owing to the scarcity of mature seed-bearing trees in the Chinese plantations the necessary quantity for re-sowing had previously been bought by plantation owners from Canton at about \$1 per lb. as far as could be ascertained. A good many applicants have, as a result, been provided with Government seed at 70 cents per lb. This reduces the cost of seed sowing for one acre to three cents when sown in the Chinese way. The Chinese plantations in the Shatin Valley from the Government Forest Nursery at Kungshan south-westwards to the gap, have been purchased by the Government. This block is more or less under the eye of the Government workmen at Kungshan and will require little extra protection. It is fairly well stocked with trees and these will be useful as shelter for the regular plantations when formed.

HAMBURG.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

May 15th

MORE LABOUR TROUBLES.

It has been said that strikes are a sign of brisk and prosperous trade; if this be so, trade must indeed be in a flourishing condition for fresh labour troubles are reported from all parts of Europe. Fortunately the great coal strike in the United States seems to be on the eve of a settlement, whilst the sailors and dock-labourers here have resumed work yesterday morning, following the example of the members of other trades who had been suspended for making a holiday on May 1. In consequence of the riot on the night of January 17, when the new suffrage law was passed, a meeting of the federal masters was called for the next day at which it was decided that members should be strictly enjoined not to allow their men to take part in any political or trade meeting during working hours and that such of the hands as should absent themselves on the occasion of the May Day process ion should be suspended for a period of not less than three days; as a great many actually did stay off that day in order to join in the demonstration the term of suspension was extended ten days, which was strictly adhered to. It seemed doubtful at one time whether the men would return to work after the expiration of the ten days, but the unions themselves advised them to do so in view of the increasing numbers of fresh arrivals anxious to take their places. It must be said to the credit of the men that everything on the whole passed off quietly, although there have been several cases where means other than "peaceful persuasion" having been employed against men willing to work, the police had to interfere. On one occasion a number of Englishmen who, contrary to orders, had left the vessel on board which they were lodged, for "a bit of a spree," were set upon in the dark and nine of them had afterwards to be taken to the hospital, having been more or less severely wounded. Since the men here have carved in, about three thousand British workmen have returned home by the boats of the different companies that had engaged them; they must have done pretty well, as they were paid 40s a day and everything found.

LABOUR POLITICS.

At the election of the committee of the State Insurance against sickness fund last week the labour party made an attempt to get the management into their hands, but were foiled; they seem determined to use their organization more and more for political purposes, since they have boldly declared at several great meetings held lately that their object is the substitution of collective for individual production, and that their ulterior ends are identical with those of the socialistic party. This challenge to the masters has greatly strengthened the feeling of solidarity of interests existing amongst the latter and has opened their eyes still further to the necessity of acting in concert. Every effort is being made to induce firms that have so far held aloof to join their colleagues; whilst unions of the same branch of trade appoint central committees to which in their turn firms combine spreading all over the country. Many of the unions have set aside funds for the purpose of making good to their members any losses caused by strikes and lock-outs, and quite recently a general association has been founded which affords the several unions an opportunity of re-insuring to some extent against such risks. It is sincerely to be regretted that the gulf between labour and capital should be constantly widening, but if the working-classes, under the influence of, in many instances, unscrupulous and self-seeking agitators, will persist in their aggressive policy, they have themselves to thank, if they find the whole of the masters arrayed against them ready to do battle.

LEPROSY.

The Kaiserliches Gesundheits Amt (the Imperial Health Office) in Berlin publishes the following particulars concerning the existence of leprosy in this country. The number of those afflicted with this terrible disease at the end of 1905 was twenty-seven, or three more than the year before; of these twenty belonged to Eastern Russia, five to Hamburg, one to Mecklenburg-Schwerin and one to Alsatia. Three deaths occurred amongst them in Prussia during the year and four fresh cases were discovered; three in the neighbourhood of Memel, which were at once removed to the Leprosy Home which has been established in that district. The fourth was that of a former soldier of German nationality who had served in the Dutch army in India and had caught the disease in Sumatra; he too was sent to the Memel home. The Hamburg cases comprise a sailor from the neighbourhood of Memel in whose family the disease is hereditary; the daughter of a lady who in 1903 had died here of leprosy, the wife of a New Orleans planter and a Portuguese student. The three last named are now under treatment in a private hospital. Three sufferers came over from the Brazils in quest of medical aid but left again whilst a fourth, a planter from Sumatra, committed suicide, there being no hope of recovery.

FRUIT.

According to an agricultural paper which I happened to see lately the consumption of fruit has increased enormously in Germany during the last decade, so that the country is no longer able to supply the growing demand, although comparatively little is exported. It is impossible to form even an approximate estimate of the annual production; all that can be stated is that last season gave the number of fruit trees as 168,388,853, which at a low computation should yield a pretty big total. In 1896 105,690 tons of green fruit valued at M. 22,763,000 and 41,506 tons of dried and preserved fruit valued at M. 14,559,000 were received from abroad; figures for the years 1899, 1900 and 1901 were—

	M.	M.	M.
Green fruit, apples, pears, grapes, &c.	42,245,000	25,910,000	39,025,000
Dried and preserved fruit, oranges, &c.	21,683,000	25,822,000	21,694,000
Bananas, &c.	43,122,000	43,170,000	42,008,000
	114,050,000	94,902,000	102,727,000

Considering the large amounts which are thus annually paid away to foreign producers the writer of the article argues that it has become the duty of every agriculturist in the country to devote special care and attention to the cultivation of fruit in order to keep as much of the money as possible at home.

A most extraordinary case is now being investigated by the police. The castle of Basedow, which belongs to one of the oldest families of Mecklenburg, was let some time ago to Prince Alfred Wrota, a magnate of Bavaria, who having been divorced from his first wife, has since married a rich South American lady. They are in the habit of spending their winters in the South, chiefly in Spain, and their summers travelling about on the Continent. A man-servant whom they had lately dismissed, has now lodged information with the public prosecutor that amongst the plate kept in the strongroom of the castle are many articles, some of silver, some plated and others of various compositions, bearing the marks or initials, partly erased, of hotels, restaurants, &c., together with all kinds of implements for obliterating the inscriptions. Pending further inquiries seals have been placed on all the entrances to the building whilst the man has been arrested on a charge of blackmailing, as previous to the denunciation he had addressed a letter to the Prince demanding M. 50,000, hush-money. There is reason to believe from what has transpired so far that it is the lady whose acquisitiveness is causing all the trouble, and it is said that many of the landladies of the hotels, who frequently are perfectly aware of her little weakness, but considering the comparatively small value of the articles have thought it advisable in their own interest to hold their peace.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

In the annual report of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps, Major Fritchard says:—On March 31st, 1905, the total strength of the Corps was 289 (including Chinese Orderly Room Clerk). The total strength of the Corps on March 31st, 1906, is 274 (including Chinese Orderly Room Clerk). It is to be hoped that there will be a further increase this year when the New Read Quarters are completed. During the past season, 2 members have died, 20 have resigned (2 on Medical Certificate, 18 in the Colony and 2 on leaving the Colony); 3 have been struck off for various reasons. It is satisfactory to note that this is the smallest number that has had to be struck off for many years, and as regards the resignation a larger proportion than usual have left the Corps. 750 new numbers have been enrolled. The Hongkong Volunteer Reserve Association has at the present date a membership of 231, an increase of 76 during the past twelve months. It has become a very popular association. The members have carried out a large amount of rifle practice throughout the year and a very good average has been obtained. The members have the same privilege of obtaining ammunition at reduced cost as the Volunteers, and carry out their practice at the King's Park Range, Kowloon, which is more accessible than the Volunteer Range at Tai Hang. It has also been decided that a range shall be built for their use at the Peak. The Association has revived the interest in the Colony in a wonderful way, and there is every reason to expect the number of members will continue to increase. It is only fair to mention, however, that a certain number of recruits must necessarily be lost to the Corps annually, owing to the fact that those who are most interested in rifle shooting have to leave the Colony for the purpose of their studies in the Reserve Association. The members of the Association are 35 years, and if this is strictly adhered to in future it should not their greatly interfere with the numbers joining the Corps. If the members of the Reserve Association had to carry out their rifle practice at the Volunteer Range, I think it is probable that their numbers would be with 20 or 30, and considering the impossibility of this range, I consider that the Volunteers deserve great credit for the good results obtained in the China United Services Rifle Association Meeting in which they defeated the members of the Reserve in every event. I think it would be fairer to the Corps if the facilities for rifle practice could be made at least as favourable as those for the Reserve Association. All the members of the Corps now now being equipped with the new short rifle. The Volunteer Troop have been equipped with the Peterson rifle carrying equipment, which seems satisfactory. Swords have also recently arrived from England for the Troopers. It is satisfactory to note that a far larger number than usual have attended over 30 drills; many have attended over 40, and the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 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